

SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2015



Welcome

to this amazing pair of national parks—Sequoia and Kings Canyon. Take time to enjoy the beauty and healing qualities of the forests and streams. Walk the trails and marvel at the enormity of the Big Trees and the wild landscape. As you go, appreciate that it all belongs to you—a gift from generations past.



Sequoia National Park is the nation's second-oldest, and one of the first national parks in the world. It was created in 1890, the result of individual Americans putting their passions to work to protect giant sequoias and preserve them for the enjoyment of all people, for all time. Kings Canyon National Park, created in 1940 to preserve High Sierra wilderness, grew out of a vigorous 60-year debate between development and preservation interests. That passion for preserving something unique and meaningful lives at the core of our national parks; each one embodies a tangible expression of the American experience.

These early struggles and hard-fought victories are easily forgotten today. In fact, the existence of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks seems to be a "given." Yet, like most things created in a democracy, parks are only as durable as the public support that created them. Each generation must decide to champion their cause and promote their protection.

Past generations bequeathed this legacy to us. As we celebrate the 125th and 75th anniversaries of Sequoia and Kings Canyon, please consider your role in their stewardship and make your commitment to their future.

Thank you for visiting your national parks.

Superintendent Woody Smeck

Join us for special activities as we celebrate the 125th anniversary of Sequoia National Park and the 75th anniversary of Kings Canyon National Park.

This program lists many options to choose from. A map on the back helps in locating them, or refer to the map and guide given to you when you entered the park. All events are open to the public; only the Crystal Cave tours include a fee.

The staff, who looks forward to meeting you out in the parks, appreciates your support. We also gratefully recall that it was San Joaquin Valley residents in the 1800s who dedicated themselves to protecting these tremendous forests and watersheds. Thanks to them, and to your ongoing efforts, we all benefit from clean water and unequalled opportunities to experience these parks.

Enjoy the parks safely.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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Coffee with our Park Superintendent

7 am, one hour

Lodgepole Campground Amphitheater

Join Woody Smeck, superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and members of his staff for coffee, treats, and an informal discussion of park issues and projects.

Wheelchair Accessibility: Park in the large lot past the campground kiosk. The amphitheater trail is to the right.

Sequoia & Kings Canyon Celebration

Anniversary Ceremony

10 am, two hours

General Sherman Tree Main Parking Area & Trailhead (via Wolverton Road in Giant Forest)

Sit and enjoy music among the trees, as well as guest speakers sharing both highlights of the past 125 years and hopes for the parks' future. *Wheelchair accessible.*

A Tribute to the Sierra

8 am - 4:30 pm, drop in

Lodgepole Visitor Center Theater

Local artist Heather Anderson has been painting her visions of the High Sierra since 1991. View her works in this special anniversary art exhibit. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Make a Difference—Be a Volunteer!

9 am - 1 pm, drop in

General Sherman Main Parking Area & Trailhead

Volunteers have helped national parks since their beginnings and still make a difference today. Come by the booth to find out about volunteer opportunities at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. And today, help us pick up litter in the parks! *Wheelchair accessible.*

Lessons from A Forest Monarch

12:30 pm, 20 minutes

General Sherman Tree (Giant Forest)

Older than the park by far, the General Sherman Tree is more than just the world's largest tree. Join a ranger at the tree for a talk about what makes this tree special, and how it relates to all of us.

Wheelchair Accessibility: Use the accessible parking area by the Sherman Tree along the Generals Highway.

Hard-workin' Mules

1 pm & 2 pm, drop in

Wolverton Corrals (off Wolverton Road in Giant Forest)

In parts of the park, the only way to get supplies to work crews is on the back of a mule! Meet one of Sequoia's own mule packers as he demonstrates mule- and horse-packing techniques.

Wild About Sequoia's Bears!

1 - 3 pm, drop in

Big Trees Trail at Round Meadow (Giant Forest)

Ever wonder how bears get ear tags and radio collars — and why? Meet a wildlife biologist to learn about the tools used to keep bears wild.

Wheelchair Accessibility: Accessible parking at Big Trees Trailhead. Others walk from Giant Forest Museum.

Art Discovery Zone

1 - 4 pm, drop in

Beetle Rock Education Center (across from Giant Forest Museum)

Earn your creative license through guided drawing and writing activities with artist Ann Brantingham and writer John Brantingham. All ages and experience levels are welcome for this fun and relaxing afternoon.

Buffalo Soldiers in Sequoia

1 - 4 pm, drop in

Lodgepole Campground, site A-1 (on the right of Lodgepole Road, past the visitor center/market).

Talk with a Buffalo Soldier in Sequoia National Park in 1903 to find out more about his experiences and lifestyle around the turn of the century.

Thirsty Giants: Sequoias in Drought

1 - 4 pm, drop in

General Sherman Tree (Giant Forest)

Learn how giant sequoias are coping with California's drought. Help to measure the water status of sequoia leaves for an ongoing study that uses data collected from the ground, from the giant trees, and from an airplane.

Wheelchair Accessibility: Use the accessible parking area by the Sherman Tree along the Generals Highway.

Native-Plant Nursery Tour

1 pm & 3 pm, one hour each

Foothills Visitor Center (Ash Mountain Park Headquarters in Sequoia)

Meet in front of the Foothills Visitor Center for a five-minute walk to the Native Plant Nursery. Learn the importance of native plants in wild habitat and to wildlife; how native plants are started and grown; and how they are used to restore lands in these parks.

Ghosts Among the Big Trees

1 - 5 pm, drop in

Several locations:

General Grant Tree, General Sherman Tree, Giant Forest Museum, and Lodgepole Visitor Center Plaza

Meet mountaineers, explorers, outlaws, and visitors from a bygone era. They will tickle your fancy with epic tales that inspire. Check at visitor centers for where and when to meet these quirky, adventurous 'ghosts.' *Wheelchair accessible.*

Special Names for Special Places

1:30 pm, 15 minutes

Foothills Visitor Center (in Sequoia)

The low elevations of the park are full of strange names: Potwisha, Hospital Rock, and Colony Peak. Learn to pronounce "Kaweah" and hear the tales of adventure, love, and loss behind them. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Unpaving Paradise: Restoring Giants

1:30 pm & 2:30 pm, one hour each

Start at Giant Forest Museum

Join the parks' restoration ecologist for a walk through the former Giant Forest Lodge and Lower Kaweah areas to learn how we transformed a small city back into a flourishing forest.

Whispers from Big Stump Grove

2 pm, one-hour walk

Big Stump Picnic Area (Hwy 180, Grant Grove)

Sometimes it takes losing something before we realize its significance. As giant sequoias crashed down due to logging, the spirit of preservation arose. Learn how the public's love of sequoias led to their protection.

Crystal Cave Tours

11 am - 4 pm, 50-minute tours start on the hour

Celebrate with naturalists at Crystal Cave and receive a thank-you gift!

Take Note: Tickets must be purchased at Foothills or Lodgepole visitor center at least 1½ hours in advance or the day prior. Tours are expected to sell out before noon.

Adult \$16, Youth (5-12 years) \$8, Child (under 5 years) \$5. Discounts for seniors, veterans, active military & SNHA members.

Wasteland to Wetland: The Story of Halstead

*2 - 4 pm, drop in
Halstead Meadow Picnic Area
(on Generals Highway north of Lodgepole)*

Learn how NPS restored the beautiful 20-acre wetland of Halstead Meadow by removing a road crossing, building a bridge, and restoring natural water flow.

Fires, Rangers, and Rescues—OH MY!

*1 - 3 pm, drop in
Lodgepole Market Plaza
2 - 4 pm, drop in
Ash Mountain Engine Bay
(behind Foothills Visitor Center)*

*2 - 4 pm, drop in
Sunset Campground Amphitheater Parking
(Grant Grove)*

When emergencies arise, park teams are there to help. Meet the visitor- and resource-protection staff; see their fire trucks, search-and-rescue vehicles, ambulances, and patrol vehicles; and try some hands-on activities. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Froggies Went a-Courting

*2 - 5 pm, drop in
Crescent Meadow Picnic Area at the end of
Crescent Meadow Road (Giant Forest)*

Meet Freddy and Frankie the Frogs, Tommy the Toad, and Fergie and Finley the Fishes. Learn what park staff are doing to restore their habitat and populations. Help untangle a net and dipnet a critter! For all ages.

Behind the Scenes

*2- 5 pm, drop in at several locations:
In Grant Grove - Maintenance Building and Kings
Canyon Visitor Center.
In the Foothills - Ash Mountain Auto Shop and
Foothills Visitor Center*

Ever wonder what it takes to keep parks open for the public? Meet our maintenance staff and see how they maintain the vehicles that keep roads open, transport employees, and provide emergency services. Informational posters will be displayed at the Foothills, Lodgepole, & Kings Canyon visitor centers.

Wheelchair Accessibility: Parking is available at all facilities; there are no accessible restroom facilities at the maintenance buildings.

Find Your Park Avenue!

*2 - 5 pm, drop in
Lodgepole Visitor Center*

Did you know that today is National Public Lands Day? Learn about other national parks and public lands in California. Stop at the booth to find where your next adventure awaits! *Wheelchair accessible.*

Flume Walk

*5 pm, 1½ hours
Marble Fork Trailhead, Potwisha Campground*

Water is a powerful force shaping the park. Come for a hike through the hills it has carved, see how humans have used its energy for more than 5000 years, and consider its role in the park's future.

Take Note: For those not camping in Potwisha, park across the street in the overflow lot, then walk through the campground to the trailhead. Bring water.

Full Moon On Moro Rock

*6:45 pm, 1 hour
Top of Moro Rock, Giant Forest*

Meet atop this famous park feature for an enchanting program on the moon's features. Hear stories of craters, lunar seas, and civilizations past as the moon rises over the Great Western Divide. Allow at least 20 minutes to climb to the top before the program.

Wilderness in 125 Years

*7:30 pm, 1 hour
Lodgepole Campground Amphitheater*

The 1964 Wilderness Act set aside some of the most pristine of our remaining wild lands. Even within national parks, designated wilderness has extra protection. Will these areas remain wild? Explore the history of wilderness and the challenges of the future through this slide show.

Wheelchair Accessibility: Park in the campground next to the amphitheater to access the event via a paved trail.

Climb Every Mountain

*8 pm, 1 hour
Potwisha Campground Amphitheater*

For 125 years, the High Sierra peaks and passes have drawn mountaineers here. Come learn about the golden age of mountaineering and backpacking, and the many characters who shaped it and were shaped by it.

Take Note: For those not camping in Potwisha, park across the street in the overflow parking lot, then walk through the campground to the amphitheater.

Ghosts of the Giants

*8 - 9 pm, 1 hour
Wuksachi Lodge Lobby*

Join the “Ghosts of Giants” to hear tales from yesteryear. Look back to the early years of these parks from the perspective of a charismatic living-history character. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Wonders of the Night Sky

*9 pm, 1 hour
John Muir Lodge, Grant Grove*

The stars are out! Get the backyard basics of stargazing on this celebratory tour of the night sky. Listen to ancient and cultural stories about constellations as you enjoy an evening under one of California's most brilliant skies.

Take Note: Meet in the lobby, then caravan to the stargazing spot.

BBQ Lunch: All You Can Eat

*12 - 2 pm,
Wolverton Picnic Area
\$13 per person,
\$6.25 for children 4-12*

*Hosted by Delaware North Parks
& Resorts. Wheelchair accessible.*

Sherman Dog
Beef hot dog (Hebrew National brand)
Big Baldy Burger
8-oz. grass-fed beef patty on a brioche bun*
Little Baldy Burger (vegetarian)
Black bean burger on a brioche bun*

Crescent Chicken Sandwich
Grilled chicken breast on a brioche bun*
Peaks Red-potato Salad
Home-made Potato Chips
Fruit Salad

*Gluten-free buns available on request



CELEBRATE. TIMELESS. MEMORIES.

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These parks are older than the National Park Service!
Congress designated both Sequoia National Park and the
Grant Grove area of Kings Canyon National Park in 1890.
Yet they didn't create an agency to protect them until
1916. That means another celebration is coming next year:
the National Park Service Centennial!



2016

National Park Service
CENTENNIAL

These parks have been critical in shaping national-park policy and management over the past 100 years, given their early start and their enduring success in applying science to conservation. From protecting wildlife and people, to learning the critical importance of fire in the ecosystem, to restoring landscapes, to studying effects of air pollution and climate change, Sequoia and Kings Canyon loom large in park service history.

FIND YOUR PARK

During next year's centennial, find the national park that resonates for you. Naturally, we think Sequoia and Kings Canyon are everyone's #1 choice. Yet more than 400 sites in the National Park System await your discovery and exploration. Pick one or more, and enjoy sharing timeless memories of them with friends and family for the rest of your life.

Printing provided by a generous
donation from the Tioga Sequoia
Brewing Company, with support from
the Sequoia Parks Foundation.